

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 198
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Stephen Curtis Kennedy of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee Army National Guard today; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer, Staff Sergeant Stephen Kennedy of Lenoir City's Company D, 1st Squadron of the 278th Regimental Combat Team, lost his life in pursuit of freedom and democracy for the people of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2005, he was fatally wounded while on patrol near Balad Ruz, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Staff Sergeant Kennedy did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people from the chains of injustice; and

WHEREAS, a beloved father, husband, and son, Stephen Kennedy, whose father served in the Navy, carried on the family tradition of military service and bravery by serving with the Marine Corps for four years, fighting in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and serving in the Tennessee Army National Guard since 1998; and

WHEREAS, by displaying the patriotism and honor for which he was well known, Staff Sergeant Kennedy was the embodiment of the American hero; he believed deeply in America

and the virtue of its cause, never hesitating to sacrifice himself to defend his beloved nation, its citizens, or a fellow serviceman; and

WHEREAS, this superlative individual won the hearts of many, was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be dearly missed by his beloved wife, Tiffany and his four children, Stephen, Morgan, Logan, and Ragan; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Kennedy served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and, for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the Tennessee National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Kennedy's dedication to excellence and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, as exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Staff Sergeant Stephen Kennedy, Tennessee Army National Guard, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby proclaim that we honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Stephen Curtis Kennedy, a man of impeccable character, limitless courage, and stalwart commitment to the defense of his nation as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, reflecting fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Stephen Kennedy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.